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Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Joint ministerial statement released at the eighth Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative held in Hiroshima, Japan, on 11 and 12 April 2014

Working paper submitted by the members of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (Australia, Canada, Chile, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, Turkey and United Arab Emirates)

The members of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative — Australia, Canada, Chile, Germany, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nigeria, the Philippines, Poland, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates — have the honour to submit the joint ministerial statement adopted at the eighth Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative held in Hiroshima, Japan, on 11 and 12 April 2014.

Eighth Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative: joint ministerial statement Hiroshima, Japan (12 April 2014)

1. We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative countries — Australia, Canada, Chile, Germany, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nigeria, the Philippines, Poland, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates — are gathered here in Hiroshima, where an atomic bomb was dropped for the first time in human history and which witnessed first-hand the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of an atomic bombing that last even to the present day. We were very deeply touched by the testimonies of atomic bomb survivors (*hibakushas*) and reinforce our commitment to achieving the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. With this in mind, we invite the world's political leaders to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, to witness the consequences with their own eyes.

2. We are committed to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as the essential foundation for the achievement of nuclear disarmament, as the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and as the basis for the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear technology. We stress the importance of

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universal adherence to the Treaty and call upon all States not parties to the Treaty to accede to it immediately as non-nuclear-weapon States.

3. We reaffirm our commitment and shared purpose as declared in our first ministerial statement in September 2010, which is to take forward the consensus outcome of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and to jointly advance the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation agendas as mutually reinforcing processes. We reaffirm our commitment to contributing actively to the 2015 Review Conference, including the upcoming third session of the Preparatory Committee, by submitting working papers to promote discussion and understanding on the following subjects: nuclear disarmament in the era following the signing of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (New START Treaty), increased transparency in nuclear disarmament, de-alerting, nuclear security, a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction and withdrawal from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

4. With the 2015 Review Conference fast approaching, we urge all States parties to comply fully with the obligations and commitments, particularly the full and prompt implementation of all the actions in the 2010 action plan. For its part, the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative has been devoting, and will continue to devote, attention to elements for consideration in a consensus outcome document for the 2015 Review Conference. In our view, the 2015 Review Conference should review the implementation of the 2010 action plan and, with an eye towards the next 2020 review cycle, seek to strengthen all three pillars of the Treaty — nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. As a diverse cross-regional group of non-nuclear-weapon States, we can play a constructive and proactive role in bridging diverse positions to help craft a successful outcome at the 2015 Review Conference, with progress across all the pillars of the Treaty.

5. We reaffirm that the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is their total elimination. In this regard, we stress the need for a systematic and continued reduction of all types of nuclear weapons, including non-strategic and non-deployed nuclear weapons, by all States possessing nuclear weapons, in a pragmatic and step-by-step approach, with a view to their total elimination.

6. We recall that the nuclear-weapon States made an unequivocal undertaking at the 2000 Review Conference to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals, thereby generating a process that would lead to their elimination. At the 2010 Review Conference, the nuclear-weapon States reaffirmed their commitment to unequivocally accomplishing the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals, leading to nuclear disarmament in accordance with article VI of the Treaty, and committed themselves to accelerating progress on the steps leading to nuclear disarmament.

7. In this regard, we welcome bilateral disarmament measures by the Russian Federation and the United States of America, such as those contained in their New START Treaty, and encourage them to continue discussions on follow-on measures to the New START Treaty to achieve even deeper reductions in their nuclear arsenals, towards achieving the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. We were encouraged by the proposals of the President of the United States, Barack Obama, in

his speech in Berlin in June 2013, in which he stated the intention of the United States to seek additional negotiated cuts with the Russian Federation and move beyond cold war nuclear postures. We expect the proposals to lead to progress in negotiations on comprehensive reductions of all types of nuclear weapons.

8. While recognizing the positive impact of unilateral and bilateral reductions, we believe that they do not replace multilateral negotiations towards the ultimate elimination of all types of nuclear weapons.

9. We are deeply concerned about the reported build-up of nuclear arsenals, against the clear intent of the international community to achieve the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. We urge those not yet engaged in nuclear disarmament efforts to reduce their arsenals with the objective of their total elimination.

10. Increasing the transparency of information about nuclear forces has also been an issue of great importance to the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative. Without transparency, nuclear disarmament cannot be verified nor would States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons have complete confidence that nuclear disarmament measures have been accomplished in an irreversible manner. We urge the nuclear-weapon States to use an agreed standard reporting form to meet their obligations to report their disarmament undertakings to the upcoming third session of the Preparatory Committee. We urge them to build upon this effort by submitting further substantive, timely and meaningful reports at future Treaty meetings on their nuclear disarmament undertakings to fulfil their commitments under article VI of the Treaty.

11. Quantitative reductions should be accompanied by steps towards reducing the role and significance of nuclear weapons in security strategies and military doctrines. These steps are important contributions towards the goal of complete nuclear disarmament and will be mutually reinforcing with further quantitative reductions. While we acknowledge the steps that have been taken in this regard, we urge nuclear-weapon States to reduce further the role of nuclear weapons and urge others who have not done so to start reducing the role of nuclear weapons in their security strategies and military doctrines.

12. De-alerting nuclear forces is also important, not only as a step towards a world free of nuclear weapons but also to avoid and reduce the risk of catastrophic humanitarian consequences from any unauthorized or accidental launch of nuclear weapons. We urge all nuclear-weapon States to take concrete and meaningful steps, whether unilaterally, bilaterally or regionally, to implement actions 5(e) and 5(f) of the 2010 action plan, which, inter alia, call for reducing the risk of accidental use of nuclear weapons.

13. We are deeply concerned and frustrated with the continued stalemate in the Conference on Disarmament. We regret that the Conference has failed to fulfil its mandate as the single multilateral disarmament negotiation forum of the international community for more than 18 years. It is time for the Conference's member States to take bold steps towards fulfilling the Conference's mandate and resume negotiations.

14. As an essential step towards a world free of nuclear weapons, the immediate commencement of negotiations on a non-discriminatory, multilateral and universally and effectively verifiable treaty to ban the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices (fissile material cut-off treaty) that

serves both disarmament and non-proliferation purposes remains a priority. We welcome and look forward to the work of the Group of Governmental Experts on this issue, which ended its first session on 11 April 2014 in Geneva. We urge the Conference to launch negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty as soon as possible. Pending the conclusion of such negotiations, all nuclear-weapon States and other States in possession of nuclear weapons should declare and maintain a moratorium on the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons.

15. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is also an essential component for achieving nuclear disarmament. We welcome the recent ratification of the Treaty by Brunei Darussalam, Chad, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq and Niue, bringing the total number of ratifications to 162. Although the Treaty, 18 years after opening up for signatories, has yet to come into force, we believe that the prohibition of nuclear tests as envisioned by the Treaty has become a de facto international norm. However, without the legally-binding effect of the entry into force of the Treaty, such a norm remains fragile. We therefore urge those remaining States whose signatures and ratifications are necessary for the entry into force of the Treaty to sign and ratify it without delay.

16. We are committed to strengthening the effectiveness and efficiency of the Safeguards System of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). We consider the IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement, in combination with an Additional Protocol, to be the international verification standard and call upon all States that have not yet done so to conclude and implement an Additional Protocol without delay. We stand ready to share our experiences and best practices, as well as legal and practical assistance, in cooperation with IAEA.

17. Furthermore, we underscore the crucial role of export controls to support the fulfilment of nuclear non-proliferation obligations under paragraph 2 of article III of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. We encourage all States to establish, develop and maintain appropriate and effective national export controls for nuclear and nuclear-related dual-use goods, equipment and technology. We stand ready to share our individual experiences in the field of export control with other States.

18. Recognizing the serious threat of nuclear terrorism, we reaffirm our commitment to working together to strengthen nuclear security, including by fully implementing relevant international requirements. We welcome The Hague Communiqué adopted at the third Nuclear Security Summit, which was held in the Netherlands on 24 and 25 March 2014. The members of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Imitative fully support the objectives of the Nuclear Security Summit, which are to strengthen nuclear security and reduce the threat of nuclear terrorism. We also reaffirm the essential responsibility and the central role of IAEA in the international nuclear security architecture.

19. We strongly condemn the nuclear and ballistic missile programmes of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which undermine the Treaty and the global non-proliferation regime, as well as pose a great threat to regional and global peace and stability. We condemn and express grave concern at the ballistic missile launches conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 26 March 2014 (local time), following the launches on 3 March 2014. These launches are clear violations of the relevant Security Council resolutions. We strongly urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to comply with its commitments under the

2005 Six-Party Talks joint statement and with its obligations under all the relevant Security Council resolutions, to abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes and to return to compliance with its IAEA Safeguards Agreement and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Furthermore, we urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to refrain from further provocative actions, including ballistic missile launches, nuclear tests or the threat of the use of nuclear weapons. We also deplore the announcement and the efforts by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to readjust and restart the nuclear facilities at Yongbyon and urge the country to cease all nuclear activities immediately.

20. We welcome the start of the implementation of the first steps of the joint plan of action agreed with the Islamic Republic of Iran and hope that the ongoing negotiations of the Governments of France, Germany, the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America (E3+3) with the Islamic Republic of Iran will lead to the final and comprehensive resolution of the Islamic Republic of Iran's nuclear issue. In particular, we urge the Islamic Republic of Iran to swiftly and steadily implement measures such as the ratification and implementation of its Additional Protocol, with a view to removing international concerns regarding its nuclear activities. In addition, we urge the Islamic Republic of Iran to fulfil the requirements of the relevant Security Council resolutions and the decisions of the IAEA Board of Governors. In this context, we welcome the Framework for Cooperation and the steps implemented to date, and fully support the efforts of the E3+3 Governments and IAEA. In particular, while respecting the right of the Islamic Republic of Iran to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in conformity with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and other relevant obligations, we support the efforts of IAEA to resolve international concerns and all outstanding issues regarding Iranian nuclear activities, including possible military dimensions, and we call on the Islamic Republic of Iran to cooperate fully with IAEA in this respect.

21. The Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative, as a group of non-nuclear-weapon States committed to promoting nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, is following with grave concern the situation in Ukraine, which has been the subject of intensive discussions among ourselves as well as at the General Assembly. The Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative expects international obligations and commitments to be respected, including the 1994 Memorandum on Security Assurances in Connection with Ukraine's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (Budapest Memorandum).

22. We emphasize that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among States of the region concerned, is an important measure in strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament process. We therefore call on all nuclear-weapon States to recognize the value of nuclear-weapon-free zones, such as those established by the Treaties of Pelindaba, Rarotonga, Semipalatinsk and Bangkok, by securing ratifications of relevant protocols without reservations contrary to the object and purpose of those Treaties.

23. We regret that the conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, which is an essential and integral part of the final outcomes of the 1995, 2000 and 2010 review conferences, has still not been held. We welcome the ongoing consultations among

the relevant parties to address outstanding issues and call for the earliest possible convening of a successful conference with the participation of all the States of the region on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at. We support the facilitator in his efforts to realize this outcome and call upon the States in the region to engage in a spirit of constructive cooperation that will lead to an inclusive, substantive and goal-oriented conference and follow-up steps.

24. The testimonies of *hibakushas* serve as a reminder to us all of why a nuclear war should never be fought. The devastating impact of nuclear weapons has motivated humanity's aspirations to achieve and sustain the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world, which is reflected in the first resolution passed by the General Assembly in 1946. The humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons have been reflected in numerous multilaterally negotiated instruments, including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Tlatelolco Treaty, as well as in the final document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

25. We urge all States to reiterate their deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, as expressed in the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference. In view of such consequences, it is in the interest of all nations that the nearly 69-year record of the non-use of nuclear weapons be extended forever.

26. The catastrophic humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons fundamentally underpins all work aimed at succeeding in our non-proliferation efforts and at achieving nuclear disarmament in pursuit of a more secure world, particularly through the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The ongoing discussion on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons should be inclusive and universal as well as a catalyst for united global action towards the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. For this purpose, we encourage all States to contribute actively and constructively in all forums to pursue practical and effective measures that will strengthen the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime based on the Treaty, while dealing with diverse nuclear risks.

27. In order to foster further momentum for achieving a world free of nuclear weapons, we stress the significance of spreading awareness of the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons across borders and generations. Through disarmament, non-proliferation education and the translation of the testimonies of *hibakushas* into multiple languages, messages have been sent to the world about the consequences of nuclear weapons. Such endeavours should continue. Efforts to deepen our understanding further of the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons based on facts-based scientific studies are important. We welcome all such recent efforts, including the conferences on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons held in Oslo in March 2013 and in Nayarit, Mexico, in February 2014. In this regard, we take note of the offer of the Government of Austria and are looking forward to further discussions on the Government's plans for the next conference on this issue, which is to be held in Vienna later in 2014.

28. We recognize the significant role of civil society, and accordingly, the importance of disarmament and non-proliferation education. On the margins of the Ministerial Meeting held in Hiroshima, we had a welcome opportunity to engage with civil society, including non-governmental organizations, students from Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative member States, academics and the

media. We will continue our engagement with civil society in pursuit of our common objectives.

29. We call upon all States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to take part in the third Preparatory Committee in a spirit of cooperation and good faith, which would maintain the constructive atmosphere created at the previous sessions of the Preparatory Committees, and to carry that spirit forward to the 2015 Review Conference. It is the responsibility of all States parties to fulfil their commitments and obligations under the Treaty regime and to work to uphold and strengthen that regime, including by achieving a successful outcome at the 2015 Review Conference.